AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE
EDUCATE
ORGANIZE !

Entered as second-class matter September 21, 1914, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 31, 1918.

VOL. 8. NO. 36. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1918. WHOLE NO. 400.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

ORIENTALS CAN'T MOLD AMERICAN SEA SPIRIT

Washington, Nov. 30.—United States Senator Fletcher, of Florida, chairman of the important senate committee on commerce, is alert to the value of the seamen's law in developing an American merchant marine by making the sea attractive to American boys.

Opponents of the seamen's law have never abandoned hope of destroying this legislation. Therefore, a program for a merchant marine is ship "subsidized." The senator knows that the world's cheapest labor to man American ships. Senator Fletcher, together with other friends of the seamen's law, realize that this policy can not create an American spirit that was so evident in the early sea history of our country.

In a recent statement on this subject, Senator Fletcher said:

"We can never succeed in establishing or creditably operating a marine under our flag unless we arrange to furnish the men to sail the ships. The American boy for many years past has found nothing to invite but everything to discourage him when he looked toward the sea.

"The sea power of any nation depends mainly upon the number of trained seamen that nation can furnish. It is the part of wisdom to foster in every way the development of seamen and make it attractive to those who turn to it as a permanent occupation the life of a mariner.

"The seamen's act of March 5, 1915, is the first legislative recognition by congress that the rights and interests of our seamen should have recognition and be safeguarded. The old policy drove Americans off the ocean. It knocked our sea legs from under us. The new policy is to call our men back and say to them, 'You shall be treated as decent citizens.'"

The opposition to the seamen's law is international because it permits a sailor in a foreign vessel to quit when he reaches an American port. The effect of this is shown by Senator Fletcher, who says:

"When these foreign vessel owners find their sailors leaving them in American ports in order to obtain American wages they will pay these wages and we will soon equalize the cost of operation American and foreign vessels through raising wages in the low old world countries above the former policy of lowering wages to the point of causing men to abandon the sea."

WANTS 'DEAD WOOD' CUT OUT

San Francisco, Nov. 30.—The dropping of all subjects by the public schools of California that have no social value is urged by E. R. Snyder, commissioner of educational training.

"The school system of the state and of this country," he says, "will become efficient only when we eliminate the waste material from the content of the various subjects of the curriculum. Any subject or every part of every subject taught in the elementary schools should be tested before a court of inquiry and should be made to defend itself on the ground of social utility.

"Much material yet remains in the various grades of the elementary school curriculum that exists purely because of tradition or because of a feeling that, after all, there is value something in the doctrine of formal discipline, even though in the case of formal discipline, we lack the courage of our convictions and continue to present subjects that once were used by the children, unless, like ourselves, they become teachers of other children, and thus continue the vicious circle that only wastes human energy."

WHEN WAR OFFICIALLY ENDS.

Washington, Nov. 30.—In justifying a decision in two disputes between Minneapolis employers and employed, the national war labor board calls attention to its functions, which are to continue during the war.

"This war, although hostilities have been suspended by an armistice," says the board, "still continues in its legal status, and will continue under the decision of the president of the United States until peace is declared to exist by a proclamation of the president of congress or by the ratification of the treaty of peace and proclaiming the war to be ended and a state of peace to begin. In other words, the ceasing of hostilities has no effect upon the present jurisdiction, as a matter of law, and does not in any way affect the legal operation of the proclamation of the president creating the war labor board. However much it may change conditions under which the jurisdiction is being exercised."

TO ADVISE POLICY HOLDERS.

Washington, Nov. 30.—A new department has been created in the government bureau of war risk insurance. The duty of this section is to advise soldiers and sailors carrying government insurance of their rights and privileges with respect to continuing their policies after they leave the army and navy and to promote the widest possible dissemination of information for this purpose.

The new department is known as the conservation section of the division of military and naval insurance of the bureau of war risk insurance.

STATE ISSUES SAFETY CODE.

Madison, Wis., Nov. 30.—The state industrial commission has issued a safety code for refrigerating plants. It is stated that this code is necessary because "all refrigerating machines work under very high pressures and some of them are highly poisonous gases. There are two hazards in connection with the operation of refrigerating machines—one from flying parts of ruptured machinery and the other that of asphyxiation from poisonous gases."

ONE TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.

Washington, Nov. 30.—That telegraph facilities may be used to the fullest extent, Postmaster General Burleson today announced that the telegraph systems shall be operated as a single system and merged for transmission all classes of messages.

TO RESTORE SENIORITY.

Washington, Nov. 30.—The United States railroad administration has ordered that soldiers and sailors who desire to return to their employment on government controlled railroads shall be given their seniority wherever practicable.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PLACING PEACE LABOR

Washington, Nov. 30.—Secretary of Labor Wilson has established by the community labor boards of the United States employment service to stick to their posts "until the last unit of our fighting forces overseas shall have been brought back to appropriate pursuits of peace and the last man to be withdrawn from war service shall have received the opportunity of employment for which he is best fitted to serve."

"There is no instrumentality at the government's disposal," continues the cabinet official, "so well equipped to help in the process of transition from war to peace as the community labor boards, and at no time since the beginning of the war has the need of such services been so urgent or the duties imposed upon these capable of performing them so imperative."

It is proposed that these community labor boards, through which workers in non-war work have been recruited for the industry, will now be utilized to aid the reemployment in industry of both soldiers and civilian war workers. They will be used to gather information in industrial localities necessary to an intelligent demobilization of the army and war industry and the redistribution of workers. Arrangements have been made with the war department and the war industries board whereby the community labor boards in large industrial centers will have weekly reports on labor conditions in their communities.

In supporting this plan Secretary of Labor Wilson says the country faces the obligation to return to suitable employment those men, under the stress of war, it induced to enter its services in the field or in the factory.

"HOLD WHAT YOU'VE GOT."

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 30.—In a circular to affiliated local branches, officers of the United Leather Workers' International Union say: "Let it be clear when mechanics in the harness and saddlery industry have to depend upon their own power and determination to maintain "wage rates, hours and conditions on regular work which we have, through collective agreement, with the government, been able to secure and enforce against the contractors by means of the hours and saddlery adjustment commission." This commission includes government representatives, and adjusts disputes arising on war work.

"You can guess many concealed methods to reduce your wages and modify the conditions under which you have been working on contract work," it is stated. "One method, which has already made its appearance is to tell individual workers that they can need the work, but in order to assist you they have decided to make some stock, provided you will work for 20 cents an hour, or perhaps still lower."

Leather workers are asked to vote on the after-the-war policy, submitted by their general executive committee. The principles involved are: "To hold what you've got."

WOULD REVISE CIVIL RULES.

Washington, Nov. 30.—The National Federation of Federal Employes, affiliated with the A. F. of L., will ask the next session of congress to revise the civil service rules, so as to more effectively protect the civil service commission by giving it powers of employment and management on a par with the addition to the present function of recruiting workers for the government.

The unionists favor civil service training courses in all school subsidized or controlled by the federal government, such courses to be designed especially for soldiers and sailors prior to demobilization. And also favor the establishment of a membership to consist of administration officials, employes and the public.

WANT ROADS RETURNED.

New York, Nov. 30.—An army of attorneys, headed by Elihu Root, has been engaged by a number of owners of railroad securities to secure the return of government controlled railroads to their ownership. It is declared that the government's policy is "unattractive" during the financial credit of the railroads, and that the present conditions cannot continue without the elimination of railroads as individual concerns."

While it was provided that the railroad bill signed by the president on the minds of the owners that Uncle Sam may find needs in the future for a short time until the senate ratifies the peace treaty.

$7,500 FOR ONE DEATH.

New York, Nov. 30.—The Brooklyn Rapid Transit company has settled one damage claim against it for $7,500 because of the death of a messenger through the company's attempt to operate its cars with strikebreakers. His refusal to obey the order of the national war labor board to reinstate the striking motormen and conductors resulted in a strike and nearly 100 passengers were killed in wrecks.

FICKERT ASSAULTS EDITOR.

San Francisco, Nov. 30.—District Attorney Fickert, now under conviction of Thomas J. Mooney, again forgot his oath to uphold law and assaulted the Bakersfield Fremont Older, editor of the San Francisco Bulletin, when the latter and his armed detectives to guard the newspaper man, who has been waging a sensational fight against the forces that demand Mooney's execution on testimony now declared to be false.

ELECTRICIANS ADVANCE.

Washington, Nov. 30.—The national war labor board has ruled in favor of an increase of 5 cents per hour to Duluth and Superior ote docks that the daily wage for a 10-hour day be considered are old age pensions, hours of labor and a minimum wage.

MADISON BARBERS STRIKE.

Madison, Wis., Nov. 30.—Barbers in this city have suspended work to enforce their wage demand of $28 a week and 65 per cent of receipts in excess of $28.

CALIFORNIA UNIONISTS OFFER RECONSTRUCTION PLAN

San Francisco, Nov. 30.—The reconstruction committee created by the last convention of the California state federation of labor, has made its report and has forwarded copies of same to affiliates. Among the first declarations is the following:

"Our real test is just now beginning, and it will be the most momentous that our state and nation has ever faced. The coming of peace will bring forth a new unprecedented share of the power and prestige of victory while it saves us from paying anything like the frightful costs that have been borne by other belligerents. All of our industries have been speeded up and greatly strengthened; wastes and inefficiencies have been eliminated; our productive capacity has been enormously increased. California and the other Pacific coast states now lead the world in the production of tonnage. Our resources of coal and utilized resources have been increased while those of the other countries have been diminished. We have practically everything that the world needs, and we alone among the industrial nations remain able to be in position to export in vast quantities the materials needed for reconstruction.

"For this reason the California state federation of labor can see no possible excuse for the cry that a period of depression will be ushered in the first year of peace. The program contains these recommendations:

Demobilization—"We welcome and invite to our councils representatives of the returned soldiers and sailors as soon as they get back in relation to take up matters of mutual interest."

It is suggested that the government's Work Day—"Let the war attendant upon the demobilization of these great forces and the effect thereof upon the nation's industries, to the end that panic shall not prevail."

Organizing the Unorganized—"We favor the Work Day—Let the majority of carrying on this work with greater energy than ever before."

Unemployment—"We favor for a work day not exceeding eight hours in which a full day's production in any industry where unemployment exists. For where conditions are such that even eight hours' work tends to exhaust and devitalize those engaged."

Co-Operative Organizations—"The failure of sporadic and indifferent efforts at co-operative organization should not be permitted to outweigh the great advantages inherent in co-operation."

Workers are advised to use their liberty bonds and war savings stamps as a basis of credit in the formation of these co-operative enterprises.

Land Taxation—Tax idle land and land held for speculation or the purpose of placing "a larger share of the burden of taxation on monopolistic wealth and individual ease."

State Land Colonization—To give "to those of our soldiers who so desire an opportunity of gaining a direct economic interest in the soil they have defended in their service."

Public Ownership—We insist upon public ownership of every utility and all properties incidental to their operation. We demand retention of the federal government of the railroads, express and telegraph companies.

Manning Our Merchant Marine—"The merchant and naval element has served our country in time of war—who voluntarily manned our ships bound for the various inland waters—must be given the same protection against competition with foreign oriental labor as is given the workers ashore. The seamen's act, instead of repealed, should be strengthened to the end that our seamen, who have recently responded to the call of the sea will be encouraged to remain there and train their boys for it."

Labor Representation — All appointive state commissions should include representatives of labor, because, it is stated, "the issues drawn by the aftermath of war make it more and more apparent that labor cannot, with assurance, look for the best protection of its interests in matters of government to any group outside itself."

Progressive State Government—We insist that there be no curtailment in the progressive and humanitarian work of our state government. Certain reactionary forces, under the guise of economy, are trying to emptying to muddle and befoud this issue. But they must not be permitted to make thrift and economy a slogan for reaction. We want still better laws for the protection of the workers. To be specific we demand the enactment of every measure embraced in the platform of the California union of progress and commerce."

"The union referred to is an alliance of the California state federation of labor, the farmers' educational and co-operative union and the Pacific co-operative league.

The state's political platform of this alliance includes tax on idle land, public ownership, co-operative organizations, absent voters' law, farmer and labor representation on state boards and commissions, anti-injunction law, state health insurance, experts' department stations for the development of agriculture, state highways, public employment bureaus, development of irrigation systems and constitutional sanction for safety laws.

MOONEY CASE "FRAMED" SAYS FEDERAL PROBER

San Francisco, Nov. 30.—"Practically the whole case against Mooney, Billings and Mrs. Mooney was made in order."

The above is one of the statements made by Frank Morrison, secretary of Labor Wilson by John B. Densmore, director general of the United States employment service, who has investigated court procedures in this city. The precise sustains even the most extravagant charges in the friends of the defendants.

In the case of Mrs. Mooney it is said that witnesses were made to manufacture evidence against her. This charge was presented to District Attorney Fickert.

"In the strictest and most literal meaning of the term," Densmore writes in the office, which is supposed to be dedicated to law and order.

The report fills more than six columns of enumerated facts and includes many other notable cases. The letter to Secretary Wilson from Densmore is dated November 26.

MOONEY'S COMMENT.

San Francisco, Nov. 30.—Thomas J. Mooney, confined in a death cell, awaiting execution, issued a statement on the exposure of the methods employed in his conviction, which has just been made public by Director General Densmore of the United States employment service.

"The Densmore disclosure speaks for itself," Mooney said today. "Similar investigation would have disclosed if it was inaugurated in the early stages of the frame-up.

"These corrupt forces cover the state of California and the whole nation. Resignations from these financial bandits operating under the guise of official positions in the federal government strips them of every vestige of authority and power.

"The United States government should take complete control of the prosecution of the conspirators exposed by Mr. Densmore under the espionage act and that section of the United States constitution which makes it a felony to deprive any citizen of his rights without due process of law.

"This astounding disclosure more than justifies the charges I have repeatedly made for the past few years that we were the victims of a chamber of commerce conspiracy."

STEEL WORKERS UNITE.

Pittsburg, Pa., Nov. 30. — Officers of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers report that two locals have been organized in Joliet, Ill., and one each in Canton, Ohio, and Aliquippa, Pa. The Workers has secured the eight-hour day and increased wages. The minimum day workers is 45 cents an hour and 60 cents for kiln firemen. Five workers are also employed.

BRICK WORKERS GAIN.

Shawnee, Okla., Nov. 30.—Workers engaged in the clay mining industry have raised wages from 46 to 50 cents an hour. Helpers' wages from $2 to $3 a day. These workers are affiliated with the United Brick and Tile Workers.

MEXICAN PRINTERS STRIKE.

San Antonio, Tex., Nov. 30.—Representatives of Mexican trade unionists have published in the Spanish press that printers employed on daily newspapers in the Mexican border cities have struck for the eight-hour day and work to enforce wage demands and the union is asked to aid by keeping strikebreakers from the southern republic. The local unionists promised the Mexican unionists support, and assured them that the strikebreaker's ilk is mighty scarce in the southwest.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Miami, Okla., Nov. 30.—The Typographical union has raised wages $2 a week. The new scale for newspapers and commercial shops is $25 a week for day work and $27 for night work.

New York, Nov. 30.—The trade union that shows that industrial power is the essential factor in social movements and political success is strikingly illustrated in an article written by J. H. Finlay, mining engineer of this city, and published in the Engineering and Mining Journal, current issue.

The writer makes an appeal to emotion or sentiment, but declares, in the blintest manner possible, that a nation will maintain its power by sea power, not the assertion of power, or the use of it, and that alone clever leader in an inferior nation may attract great attention in international affairs, and even give his country the appearance of power, may be done without the fact that some superior nation does not oppose him. It may have no reason to, or it may not have a leader ready to use its power.

"Another axiom is that the industrial power of a nation is not measured by gold or by foreign trade or by bank statements. It is simply the sum total of the skill of the people which will be a function of their numbers, their industrial organization and of labor. The chairmen say:

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Industrial Power Of Any Nation Is Its Political and Military Base

URGE NEW MOONEY TRIAL.

San Francisco, Nov. 30.—Judge Franklin A. Griffin, of the superior court, has sentenced Thomas J. Mooney to death, has written to Governor Johnson that Mooney be given a new trial because of evidence of a fraud conspiracy against him.

"The situation at present is that he stands condemned to death upon evidence concerning the truth of which, to say the least, there has arisen a very grave doubt," said Judge Griffin in a letter to Governor Stephens of the state and nation have declared themselves to be without power to relieve him. Upon the shoulders of the chief executive, therefore, rests this grave responsibility.

Last year Judge Griffin stated that if the perjury evidence was made public before the case left his hands he would grant a new trial to Mooney. In a letter to State Attorney General Webb, dated April 25, 1918, he declared:

"The authorship and authenticity of these letters, photographic copies of which I transmit herewith, are undisputed and undisputed. As you will at once see, they bear directly upon the credibility of the witness and go to the very foundation of the truth or falsity of the claim on which the witness stand. Had they been before me at the time of the hearing of the motion for new trial, I would have unhesitatingly granted it. Unfortunately, they came into my hands jurisdictionally, and I am, therefore, addressing you as the representative of such action on your part as will result in returning the case to this court for retrial."

RAISE WAGES $6 A WEEK.

Washington, Nov. 30.—A wage increase of $6 a week has been granted members of local No. 23, International Association of Machinists' union, by the national war labor board.

The award amounts to a 25 per cent increase in wages, and Frank F. Walsh, joint chairman of the board, makes this comment on the decision:

"Exhaustive investigations by the staff of the national war labor board have demonstrated that 721-2 cents an hour is the minimum for skilled work. is necessary to support a family in health and reasonable comfort. The wage that is granted to these in the worker's family for the benefit of the employer and the government."

Friction had developed between the employer and employed before the case was taken to the war labor board, which assumed jurisdiction after the parties directly interested waived all claims against each other relative to a breach of their contract; all pretense of contract relative to wages; all provisions of their contract relative to the arbitration of differences relative to wages, and refer all questions in dispute to the national war labor board for decision.

LIVING COSTS GO UP.

Washington, Nov. 30.—Some employers are talking about wage reductions, but the cost of living continues upward, according to the bureau of labor statistics. In a report just issued it is stated that August 1918, retail prices for food were 65 per cent above the previous month, and prices for August, this year, advanced 15 per cent over July, 1918.

For the five-year period, August 15, 1913, to August 15, 1918, prices advanced 70 per cent. All the 17 articles for which prices have been secured show increases. Eggs show increases of 52 per cent and over. Four articles increased over 100 per cent, as follows: Corn meal, 127 per cent; lard and flour, 104 per cent each, and potatoes, 105 per cent.

UNIONIST DIRECTS ROAD.

Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 30.—A trade unionist placed in charge of a struck railroad has the experience of W. S. Fitzpatrick, representative of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. Mr. Fitzpatrick temporarily will handles the freight business of this city, which is up against switchmen, engineers and clerks suspended work as a protest against the continued tyranny of the superintendent and his assistant.

Mr. Fitzpatrick has met with the terminal officials and it was agreed that the men return to work and be taken back by the joint officials, who will operate same until a satisfactory adjustment could be reached.

CONTROL MILL WORKERS.

Cincinnati, Nov. 30.—Because organized brewery workers have assisted in the new industry now employed in grain mills, with the approval of the A. F. of L. executive council, a change in name is necessary.

This trade union will henceforth be known as the International Union of Grain Brewery, Flour, Cereal and Soft Drink Workers of America. The union also has jurisdiction over yeast workers.

TEAR UP PETITION.

Hartford, Conn., Nov. 30.—Employes of the R. E. Bell Bearing company presented a petition for an eight-hour day to the factory management and the document was torn up by an employes official. The company discharged the shop committee and all of the employes then suspended work. Many of them have joined the I. W. W.

U. S. WAR LABOR BOARD HAS EXTENSIVE POWER

Washington, Nov. 30.—Joint Chairmen Taft and Walsh of the national war labor board have ruled that the board has jurisdiction in the case of the Minneapolis Steel and Machinery company versus its employes, and it has no jurisdiction in the case of the Twin City Rapid Transit company versus its employes.

It is the fact that there is another tribunal under state organization, as above pointed to which complainants (the employes) might have appealed but to which they have not applied, that the board holds is the determining factor in this controversy, cost this board has not been formally referred upon it by the president? We have no information in answering this question in the affirmative.

In the street car case the employes plan that the board take jurisdiction and hear evidence that an award may be made is denied on the ground that the Minneapolis public utilities commission has considered the dispute at the request of the parties and that this case, therefore, is still within the jurisdiction of that body.

Probably the case considered by the national war labor board has set a precedent for the settlement of Minneapolis disputes, because of an agreement either opposition to trade unionism, or to collective interests to that city and the workers' interests to the public utilities commission, which has arbitrarily exercised the power conferred upon it by the state legislature. The original intention was to aid in winning the war. But, in Minneapolis, it quickly adopted an anti-union attitude, that has been indorsed by employers.

These employers opposed the national war labor board entering the field of labor adjustments in this city by Joint Chairmen Taft and Walsh. The board was assisted by a large number of influential attorneys. A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison, was one of the attorneys for the workers.

Summed up, the board's decision would indicate that workers may appeal to the national war labor board when they do not possess the advantage of the mediation and conciliation machinery of their own state.

ASK TAFT AND WALSH STAY.

Washington, Nov. 30.—Joint Chairmen Taft and Walsh of the national war labor board have been asked by Secretary of Labor Wilson to remain in charge of that board until the end of the month.

"While an armistice has been declared," says Secretary Wilson in his letter, "we have not yet reached the status of peace. That will not be reached until a treaty of peace is proclamation has been issued after the peace treaties have been signed and approved by the senate. In the mean time problems of production and of reconstruction will have to be dealt with. For this reasons it is desired that the national war labor board continue its activities."

WANT UNION SHOP.

New Orleans, Nov. 30.—Bakers' union No. 35 has asked for the union shop, eight-hour hours, time and one-half for overtime and wage increases. Some of the employers have signed the union recognition feature of the agreement. They are "seeing things" in the form of the union label, while the unionists insist that the only way to see it is to find the anti-union employers conduct.

The bakers show that they have a membership of 1,000 and intend to educate non-unionists to join with them. The bakers' union has coined a new term "closed shop" against organized labor he is trying to camouflage his anti-union activities.

FAKE EGGS INJURE HEALTH.

Philadelphia, Nov. 30.—The high cost of eggs has led to the marketing with substitutes for eggs that are injurious to health and contrary to the pure food laws, according to state officials.

Samples of these substitutes examined have been found to contain corn starch and coal tar dyes, the state officials say.

"All these egg substitutes are frauds," declare government officials.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Boise, Idaho, Nov. 30.—The fourth annual convention of the state federation of labor will convene here in this city on January 13. The call for the convention was issued by the executive committee of the federation of labor. The principal questions that will be considered are old age pensions, hours of labor and a minimum wage.

GIRLS' WAGES RAISED.

San Francisco, Nov. 30.—Girls employed as checkers in canneries have secured a wage increase of 10 cents a day, according to announcement of the Checker Packers' union.

OPPOSE WAGE REDUCTIONS.

Washington, Nov. 30.—Answering a request of a news agency for a statement on proposed wage reductions, A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison said:

"Regardless of the wishes of individuals or groups, any reduction of present wage scales in this country will be met with the workers, who will not accept reductions for the simple reason that this produces with it a lower standard of living. And by standard of living I refer to substantial food, clothing, housing and all necessaries to a well ordered life.

"The cost of living is not a theory with the workers; it is a 'plain unvarnished tale' that cannot be explained away by any sophistry. The United States bureau of statistics shows that living costs are greater now higher and higher. Its report for August, this year, shows an increase of 15 per cent between August last year and August this year, and a total increase of 70 per cent during the five-year period between August, 1913, and August, 1918.

"The right to live comes first, and workers will resist any attempt to reduce their living standards, in view of present costs, even though some employer talks of capturing the markets of the world.

"I am hopeful that the best thought among employers will realize that the highest possible living standards for workers is the first requisite for the American way of living."

"The right-hour day should be accepted by every employer not only because the transition to peace basis may be orderly through the period of reconstruction, but for the larger reasons that have so often been advanced in favor of a shorter work day."

DEFINE COMPETENCY.

Washington, Nov. 30.—The national war labor board ruled in the case of Coffeyville, Kans., that no employe shall be discharged as an incompetent after 90 days in the employ of the company, except for good and sufficient cause; the determination of which shall be left to the decision of the superintendent, after conferring with the coopers' shop committee.

The coopers are employed by the Sinclair Refining company. In its decision will serve as a check in the discharging of active trade unionists on the ground that they are "incompetent."

Wages adjustments are made and the board also orders:

Adequate drinking facilities, lockers and bathing facilities shall be installed and kept in a clean and sanitary condition. Ventilators shall be installed in the cooper shop and kept in order to the end that the shop in cold weather to make the shop comfortable and healthful to work in."

VACATIONS WITH PAY.

Washington, Nov. 30.—After the first of the year employes of the telegraph companies, operating under the government, will receive annual vacations with pay at their regular ratings, as follows:

All regularly assigned employes who have been in the service of the company continuously for two years or more shall receive two weeks' vacation and for one year's continuous service, one week's vacation. These leaves can not be carried from year to year and thereby extended into a longer period. If the vacation is not taken, no additional compensation will be allowed.

STRONG UNION CONTRACT.

Springfield, Ill., Nov. 30.—A contract between the National Zinc company and local No. 137 of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers provides for union recognition, the check-off, the employment of only union workers, time and one-half for overtime and a minimum wage of $4.50 per day.

WANT MEDIATION BOARD.

Washington, Nov. 30.—The central labor union has recommended to Governor Townsend the creation of a state industrial commission, patterned after the national war labor board.

The governor is urged to act through the state council of defense.

R. R. UNIONS RECOGNIZED.

Washington, Nov. 30.—In an order issued by Director General of Railroads McAdoo an agreement entered into by the regional directors of the railroads under government control and the labor organizations of railroad telegraphers, railway clerks, switchmen and maintenance-of-way employes is made effective.

The agreement provides for the creation of railway board of adjustment No. 3, which will interpret wage awards where controversies arise. It is signed by the following trade unionists:

H. B. Perham, president Order of Railway Telegraphers; James M. Forrester, president Brotherhood of Railway Clerks; S. E. Sterling, president Switchmen's Union of North America, and A. E. Barker, general chairman Brotherhood of Maintenance-of-Way Employes and Railroad Shop Laborers.

This adjustment board is similar to board No. 1, which includes representatives of the four railroad brotherhoods and trainmen. It also includes representatives of the organized railroad shop crafts.

The agreement will be a blow to the little organization movements encouraged by railroad officials. This is especially true of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, which has led to combat all kinds of company "unions."

JAP WOULD LULL AGITATION.

San Francisco, Nov. 30.—K. K. Kawakami, editor of the Japan Mail, a paper writer, would lull anti-Jap agitation among workers in this country, in discussing the question in this city, according to the Labor Clarion, he said:

"The farm labor conference of the United States department of agriculture and the state council of defense, which was held at the Ferry building last Friday and Saturday, seems to have devoted a great deal of time to the discussion of the advisability of limiting the Japanese labor in this state. It appears that the Japanese government will flatly turn down any proposition to limit the emigration of Japanese labor to this country."

REPLACING WAR WORKERS.

Washington, Nov. 30.—The United States employment service has asked war work employers to notify it in advance of any proposed reductions of forces, that workers may be placed elsewhere.

The request is for advance information of the easing off of war industrial operations, it is stated, that the government service adequately devote its facilities toward meeting the federal government steps them of every vestige of authority and power.

"The United States government should take complete control of the prosecution of the conspirators exposed by Mr. Densmore under the espionage act and that section of the United States constitution which makes it a felony to deprive any citizen of his rights without due process of law.

"This astounding disclosure more than justifies the charges I have repeatedly made for the past few years that we were the victims of a chamber of commerce conspiracy."

TO RESUME U. S. BUILDING.

Washington, Nov. 30.—The ban on public building construction has been lifted by Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo who directs subordinates to invite bids for the construction of new buildings and extensions authorized and permitted to be completed.

"The resumption of construction work by the government," says Mr. McAdoo. "will contribute toward facilitating the industrial transition from a war to a peace basis, and should serve to encourage others to proceed with plans which have been delayed by the fulfillment of the many and varied industrial peace needs of the country."

ADVANCE CAR MEN'S RATES.

Washington, Nov. 30.—Street car men employed by the Washington Railway and Electric Lighting company have been awarded these rates by the national war labor board:

"For the first three months of service, 36 cents an hour; second three months, 38 cents, and 40 cents thereafter. The award dates back to November 16."

PLUMBERS LOCKED OUT.

San Antonio, Tex., Nov. 30.—Organized plumbers were granted wage increases recently by the local master plumbers' association, but the latter refused to grant the request of the employes for the enforcement of same arrived at. The employers' association is in charge of local unions of the trade.

WEB PRESSMEN GAIN.

New York, Nov. 30.—Printing pressmen who operate the big web printing presses in daily newspapers in this city have secured a flat increase of $6 a week. The new scale for newspapers and commercial shops is $29 a week for day work and $27 for night work.